

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 13597 071304Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
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R 071100Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3825
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMCONSUL MADRAS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, PINT, IN, CH
SUBJECT: SINO-INDIA RELATIONS

1. ACCORDING TO AN AFP REPORT PUBLISHED HERE, JANATA MP SUB-RAMANIAM SWAMY, NOW VISITING PEKING, HAS SAID THAT INDIA AND CHINA ARE READY TO RESOLVE THE BORDER ISSUE THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS DURING THE FORTHCOMING VISIT TO CHINA OF FOREIGN MINISTER VAJPAYEE. SWAMY MET WITH NEWSMEN SEPTEMBER 5 AFTER A TWO-HOUR TALK WITH FORMER CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTER CHI PENG-FEI. ACCORDING TO SWAMY, CHI TOLD HIM THAT CHINA WAS PREPARED TO BEGIN PEACEFUL NEGOTIATIONS "SIMULTANEOUSLY" WITH NORMALIZATION OF SINO-INDIAN RELATIONS AND "EVEN DURING THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 NEW DE 13597 071304Z

VISIT" NEXT MONTH OF VAJPAYEE. SWAMY REPORTEDLY SAID THAT CHINA WAS WILLING TO SET ASIDE DIFFERENCES AND TO CONCENTRATE ON MAJOR AREAS OF AGREEMENT. REFERRING TO THE POSSIBILITY OF NEGOTIATIONS, SWAMY TOLD NEWSMEN THAT THE BORDER COULD BE DRAWN SO THAT "THERE IS NO PLACE FOR ANY LOSS FOR EITHER SIDE" AND THAT THE MOST EFFECTIVE BORDER LINE WOULD BE A "MAINTAINABLE" ONE. ACCORDING TO AFP, CHINA WAS PREPARING TO AUTHOR-

IZE INDIAN PILGRIMS TO VISIT MOUNT KAILISH IN TIBET, THE
SOURCE OF THE BRAHMAPUTRA RIVER.

2. SWAMY, A CONTROVERSIAL MP ALIGNED WITH THE JANA SANGH
WING OF THE JANATA AND A SPECIALIST IN THE CHINESE ECONOMY,
HAS BEEN UNDER ATTACK BY THE OPPOSITION FOR HIS OFT-POSTPONED
VISIT TO CHINA. TO COUNTER CHARGES THAT SWAMY WAS THE AD-
VANCE MAN FOR VAJPAYEE'S TRIP, THE GOVERNMENT HAS STRESSED
THAT SWAMY WAS TRAVELLING IN HIS PERSONAL CAPACITY AND NOT
AS A JANATA MP OR A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GOVERNMENT. AL-
THOUGH THE AFP PRESS REPORT CONTAINED NO SURPRISES AS TO
RESPECTIVE ATTITUDES ON THE BORDER, IT PREDICTABLY PROMPTED
ANOTHER ATTACK ON SWAMY BY TWO CONGRESS MP'S. IN A STATEMENT
RELEASED TO THE PRESS, FORMER DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER BININ-
PAL DAS AND DEVINDRA NATH DWIVEDI QUESTIONED THE PROPRIETY
OF SWAMY "GOING TO THE EXTENT OF DEFINING THE OUTLINE OR
PRINCIPLE OF INDIA'S BORDER SETTLEMENT WITH CHINA." THEY
WARNED THE GOVERNMENT TO BEWARE OF "FORCES AND ELEMENTS FUNC-
TIONING AS THE SPOKESMAN OF EXTERNAL AGENCIES" (AN OBVIOUS
ALLUSION TO SWAMY AS A CHINESE AND/OR AMERICAN AGENT). DAS
AND DWIVEDI SAID THAT EVERYONE AGREED THAT THE BORDER ISSUE
SHOULD BE SETTLED PEACEFULLY WITHOUT COMPROMISING INDIAN
SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY BUT THAT THERE WERE
OTHER ISSUES THAT COULD NOT BE NEGOTIATED. THEY THEN ATTACKED
THE PRC FOR ITS STAND ON KASHMIR AND SIKKIM; ITS ARMING OF
INDIAN TRIBAL INSURGENTS; ITS SUPPORT FOR SANFWZ; THE ILLE-
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PAGE 03 NEW DE 13597 071304Z

GALLY-BUILT KARAKORUM HIGHWAY; AND ITS "ANTI-INDIA ACVITITIES
IN NEPAL AND BANGLADESH." THESE ARE ALL ISSUES WHICH THE OP-
POSITION USED REPEATEDLY IN THE JUST ENDED SESSION OF PARLIA-
MENT TO ATTACK THE GOVERNMENT'S CHINA POLICY, AND ARE AMONG
THE REASONS THAT THE GOI IS DEALING SO GINGERLY WITH THE
PEKING VISIT AND IN FORMULATING ITS POSITION ON THE BORDER
ISSUE.
GOHEEN

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